



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JACKSONVILLE WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY IN ICEBOX INVESTIGATION

(Tyler, TX) United States Attorney Matthew D. Orwig announced today that a 25-year-old Jacksonville woman has pleaded guilty to federal drug charges in the Eastern District of Texas. **TANYA SMITH** admitted to conspiracy to distribute more than 10 kilograms of methamphetamines before United States Magistrate Judge Judith Guthrie today.

According to information presented in court, an investigation began in October 2004 into the distribution of "ice" methamphetamine in east Texas, Louisiana, and Florida. During this time, the investigation, dubbed "Operation Icebox," resulted in 22 undercover drug purchases, the purchase and seizure of at least 15 handguns and the seizure of at least four pounds of "ice" methamphetamine and small amounts of marijuana and pharmaceutical drugs, and the seizure of three vehicles and a safe containing approximately \$300,000 cash. A 26-count federal indictment was returned in March charging 20 defendants with federal charges.

At sentencing, Smith faces up to 20 years imprisonment, a term of supervised release for three years, and a fine up to \$1 million. Smith has also agreed to forfeit \$25,000 believed to be drug profits. A sentencing date has not been set.

This case is being investigated by the U.S. Drug Enforcement

Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, the United States Marshals Service, the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Tyler Police Department, the Smith County Sheriff's Office, and the Henderson Police Department. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys William Baldwin and Mary Ann Cozby.

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